



Justification for locating the project in forest area

In absence of direct rail connection between Solapur-Tuljapur-Osmanabad, at present the travel mode through railway from Solapur to Osmanabad is via Kurduwadi which is 153 km long. Accordingly, a new broad-gauge railway line proposed from Solapur-Tuljapur-Osmanabad will shorten this distance by 69 km. This new proposed line would be passing through the district of Solapur & Osmanabad, administrative districts in the Marathwada region of the State of Maharashtra in India. Central Railway (CR), Solapur Division (Construction) is the implementing agency for this project.

The newly proposed greenfield Railway alignment starts at Ch.0+000 at Solapur town, North Solapur Taluka in Solapur District to Ch. 82+600 at Shingoli village, Osmanabad Taluka in Osmanabad District of Maharashtra State of length 82.6 km passes through Khed, Mardi, Tamalwadi, Malumbra, Raikhed, Tuljapur, Wadgaon, Sanjha and other important towns in North Solapur, Tuljapur and Osmanabad Talukas.

The project alignment has been selected out of many alternatives studied by the experts based on various decision parameters. Each parameter and their indicators were evaluated based on different weights assigned to each alternative option. The comprehensive comparison analysis of all the alternatives pertaining to the section was done as per each parameter and their indicators for preparation of Decision Matrix. The alignment that scored the highest has been selected as the final one. Wherever possible non-forest land has been used as a result of which the forest land requirement is minimum and barely essential.

In line of above reasons, it can be concluded that the portion of the proposed alignment passing through 4.5092 Ha of forest cannot be located on any non-forest land; therefore, involves diversion of this forest land under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for non-forestry purpose. Since the proposed forest land cannot be located elsewhere, the project location is site specific and as such the proposed diversion requirement of 4.5092 Ha is minimum and fully justified.

Thanking You,

Place: Solapur

Date: 13.05.2023

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